



Department of Justice

United States Attorney William W. Mercer
District of Montana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

CONTACT: KURT G. ALME
PHONE: (406) 247-4669
FAX: (406) 657-6055

MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Gregory Hilton Neufeld, a 32-year-old resident of Billings, was sentenced today to a term of 262 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to sexual exploitation of children and possession of child pornography. Neufeld was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, restitution (amount to be determined), and will be under supervision for 7 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In February of 2005, an investigation was undertaken into allegations that Neufeld had sexually abused and photographed a young teen-aged girl at various locations in Billings and elsewhere in Montana.

The investigation revealed that Neufeld had begun a sexual relationship with the girl in 2003 when she was thirteen, and had continued until Neufeld left the area to join the military in 2005. The investigation also revealed that Neufeld had videotaped and photographed their sexual activity throughout this time period.

Neufeld produced the visual depictions using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported across state lines or in foreign commerce. Neufeld also received and possessed numerous images of child pornography via the Internet using the girl's computer during that same time.

A search of that computer revealed numerous images of child pornography, including images of prepubescent children and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic sexual activity or other forms of violence.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Neufeld will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Neufeld does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Billings Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

###